

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

JESUS GREETED AS KING.

Jan. 30, 1921. Matt. 21:1-46.

Golden Text: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.—Matt. 21:9.

Devotional Reading: Ps. 47.

Reference Material: Matt. 20:29-34; Luke 19:29-46; John 12:12-19; 1 Pet. 3:15.

Primary Topic: The Story of a Wonderful Procession.

Lesson Material: Matt. 21:1-16.

Memory Verse: Sing praises to God, sing praises. Sing praises unto our King, sing praises.—Ps. 47:6.

Junior Topic: A Wonderful Procession.

Memory Verse: Matt. 6:10.

Intermediate and Senior Topic: Honoring Christ in Our Lives.

Topic for Young People and Adults: The Lordship of Jesus; Its Meaning for Us.

In the interval between our last lesson and this Jesus, in company with a great crowd who were going to Jerusalem to attend the Passover, had passed through Jericho. On the roadside near that city sat Bartimeus and another blind man. They cried to Jesus for help and He healed them.

Approaching Jerusalem from the east, Jesus and His traveling companions came near to Bethpage, a village near Bethany, and about a mile and a half from the city across the Mount of Olives. Stopping on the way, he sent two of His disciples into the village, telling them they would find an ass and her colt tied there. These He instructed them to bring to Him.

Who the owner was we do not know. He must have been a friend of Jesus, from his willingness to let the asses go, when he was told who wanted them. All that it was necessary for him to know was that "The Lord hath need of them."

Many a time this same message comes to us. The Lord has need of our time, our work, our money, our lives. If we were as willing to give the Lord what He needs as was this unknown man, His heart would be filled with gladness, we would receive a blessing, and the world would be benefited.

This man had no conception of what the Lord was going to do with his property, but we may believe that he felt honored when he saw Jesus leading that triumphal procession, riding on the colt that he had loaned. He will honor us by using for His glory anything that we may give to Him, and such a gift will always bring a blessing to the giver.

This is the only time that we have any intimation that Jesus rode on anything except a fisherman's boat. He was now, at the end of His ministry and at the close of His life, determined that He would announce His kingship more in accordance with the ideas of the Jews than He had ever done before. Yet He would show them that in Him there was no pride and no desire for pomp and show. So while He allowed the admiring multitude to proclaim Him King, He rode humbly on the ass' colt.

The crowd had tried to make Him king on other occasions, but He had never given any countenance to their attempt and had always slipped away from them. Now He receives their honors. Some of them place their garments on the ass, which was without the saddle that would have become a king; others threw their outer garments or branches of the trees in

the roadway before Him, in place of the carpets and rugs that were sometimes spread in the way along which an earthly king rode in triumphal procession.

The multitude sang: "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

In Ps. 118:25 Hosanna is translated, "Save now." In our lesson it is used somewhat like the more modern cry, "Long live the king," with probably the added idea of a prayer for His blessing. In this choral song the multitude declared their belief that He was the promised Messiah, the long looked for "Son of David," and that He had been sent of God and came with divine authority and power, "that cometh in the name of the Lord."

It is not surprising that Jerusalem was stirred by His entry. Heretofore He had come and gone quietly and seemed never to attempt to draw a crowd about Him. When the question was asked the multitude replied, "This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee." Could this answer have come from those who had just proclaimed Him the Messiah, or was it given by some of the multitude in the city who were only willing to admit that He was a prophet? We can only surmise.

Going into the outer court of the Temple, He found the same condition existing that He found in His early ministry. Merchandising, and evidently profiteering, was going on there. He showed His kingly authority by driving this band of thieves out of the precincts of the Temple. On the former occasion the priests asked by what authority He did those things. Now they show the littleness of their natures by complaining to Him because the children who formed a part of His procession continued their songs of praise.

In the midst of what came nearer being a triumph than any other Jesus ever had during His life on earth, He did not forget to do good to those who needed His help. The lame and the halt and the blind could not come into the presence of an Eastern monarch. Only the well and whole could come into their presence. Jesus made those well who came to Him, no matter what their former condition was.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR DAY.

M., Jan. 24. A call to youth. Prov. 1:1-9.
T., 25. Training in service. Matt. 7:12.
W., Jan. 26. In prayer. Luke 11:1-13.
Th., Jan. 27. In testimony. Luke 9:1-6.
F., Jan. 28. In co-operation. 1 Cor. 12:14-13.
S., Jan. 29. In duty. Luke 17:5-10.
S., Jan. 30. Torie—Christian Endeavor Accomplishments and Possibilities. Phil. 3:7-14. (Christian Endeavor Day.)

What has Christian Endeavor done for you?
How has Christian Endeavor helped the Church?
What may Christian Endeavor yet do for Christ?

A Call to Youth, Prov. 1:1-9: Every young man and young woman desires knowledge, and in some way tries to secure it. The important question is what kind of knowledge do they seek after, and how do they seek it? The most important knowledge any one can have is the knowledge of God, what He is, what His relation to man is, and what His will concerning man is. Blest is the young man or young woman who has a father and mother who will teach the knowledge of God. And foolish is he who rejects or neglects such teaching.

Training in Service, Matt. 7:12: The "Golden Rule," as this verse and the other modified forms of it is called, is just Christ's plain, simple law of service. Our ideas may be wrong in many respects, we may be

very selfish, but when we come to consider how we ought to treat others, if we will just stop to think how we would want others to treat us under similar circumstances, and will act accordingly, we will not do an injustice to them. This is putting into action the second great commandment, as it was stated by the Saviour: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Training in Prayer, Luke 11:1-13: "The Lord's Prayer" is given twice in slightly different forms. Our Saviour first gave it in the Sermon on the Mount, and here He repeats it with only a slight variation. The prayer is given as a general model for our prayers. In it we recognize God as our Father, and offer praise to Him. We pray for the coming of His kingdom and for the submission of all to His authority. We pray for temporal blessings, for forgiveness for our sins and deliverance from temptation. One of the striking thoughts is that in the first presentation of the prayer Jesus emphasizes our duty to forgive others. Here He emphasizes the importance of being importunate in prayer.

Training in Testimony, Luke 9:1-6: The way to get training is to go into training. The way to get experience and facility of expression is to put to use the knowledge that we have. The disciples went at Jesus' command to tell others what they knew about Him. That is just what He wants each of us to do. It may be that we do not know much, but there are lots of people that do not know as much as we do. The more we tell, the more we will learn. It may be hard at first, but who is afraid of a job because it is hard? The oftener we do anything the easier it is to do it. Jesus is always ready to be our partner in our work.

Training in Co-operation, 1 Cor. 12:4-13: No man is expected to do all kinds of work. If he tries to do everything, he will be a miserable failure. Each one ought to see what kind of work fits his capacity and do that with his might. An earnest Christian who was an illiterate man thought that there ought to be a Sunday school in his neighborhood, so he went to work to gather the children for a school and soon had a large number. He then went to an educated man and laid upon him the burden of superintending the school and securing teachers. He continued to bring in the children. Then he felt that something ought to be done for the men. He went to work and soon had enough gathered into the school to form a Bible class. He then went to a prominent lawyer and showed him the great opportunity there was there for him to do a good work in teaching that class, and he became its teacher. This uneducated man continued his work of bringing others into the school. It had had a good superintendent and good teachers, and it became a large and excellent school. Those who knew said the humble street sweeper who could not read had done more to make the school what it was than all the others besides. See what work you can do, however humble it may seem, and do it with your might.

Training in Duty, Luke 17:5-10: General R. E. Lee is reported to have written that "Duty is the sublimest word in the English language." Whether he wrote this or not, it was the guiding principle of his life. When offered the highest honor in the gift of the government, the chief command of the Northern Army, he declined because he felt that it was his duty to serve his State, and so he offered it his services without any

conditions. Duties are to be performed without thought of reward. We are not to limit the performance of duty by the pay we receive. It has been well said that, "The man who only does what he is paid to do will never be paid for any more than he does." The man who watches the clock to see how soon he can stop his work, and works only that he may get his wages, will never amount to much in the world.

Christian Endeavor: Accomplishments and Possibilities, Phil. 3:7-14: No matter what we may have accomplished in the past, do not let us base our hopes upon that. Paul takes us to the race track and shows us the runner. He has laid aside everything that will interfere with his running. As he runs he is not concerned with that part of the course which he has passed over. He is thinking about what is before him. He fixes his eye upon the mark that is on before him down the track, and he puts forth every effort to reach it that he may obtain the prize. Jesus has set a mark before us, and if we reach it we shall obtain the prize of His high calling, which is the salvation of our souls. Let us follow the racer's example. With the same singleness of purpose and the earnestness of effort we can obtain the crown of righteousness that fadeth not away.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

On February 2d the fortieth anniversary of the organization of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor will be celebrated.

On February 2, 1881, Rev. Francis E. Clark, D. D., then a pastor in Portland, Me., gathered a few of the young people of his church to see what could be done to help them in their own spiritual life and to fit them better for the Master's service. The result of that meeting was the organization of the first Christian Endeavor Society.

Dr. Clark and his young people had little idea what was going to come out of their small organization. But when a good seed is planted in good ground and it receives the sunshine and the showers of heaven, we may expect it to grow into a great tree that will yield abundant fruit.

This seed planted away up in Maine has grown until the branches of the tree have spread all over this country, and they have reached out until they have covered nearly every country in the world. That little society has now become more than a hundred thousand societies with five million members. These societies are found in more than eighty denominations and they are scattered through every civilized country in the world, and are found in many of the mission fields in foreign lands.

In the United States and Canada the Presbyterians lead in the number of societies, and after them the Disciples of Christ, Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists, United Brethren and so on. In Great Britain and Australia the Methodists are in the lead.

The headquarters of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, as the national organization is called, are in Boston. Dr. Clark, the founder, is still the president. Its official organ is "The Christian Endeavor World."

ORGANIZATION OF A C. E. SOCIETY.

(Continued.)

We suggested last week that a committee should be appointed to nominate officers. Another committee should be appointed to suggest a constitution. This can be done very easily. Write to Dr. Glass at Richmond